1.   (Once Amended)   A method for configuring a distributed storage system for a failover condition, said method comprising the steps of:

providing a plurality of distributed object storage managers "DOSMs" for receiving requests for files;

providing at least three intelligent storage nodes accessible to said DOSMs over a network;

storing at least one file in a first intelligent storage node accessed via a DOSM over said network;

storing a duplicate of said file in a second intelligent storage node accessed via said network;

entering a failover condition to cease use of said first intelligent storage node;

determining, at said DOSM, a location for said file in one of said intelligent storage nodes;

identifying said second storage node as said location for said file; and

accessing, via said network, said file stored in said second intelligent storage node in response to a subsequent file request.

8.   (Once Amended)   The method as set forth in claim 7, further comprising the step of searching for said file using a point-to-point protocol between distributed object storage manager (DOSM) and said second intelligent storage node.

11.   (Once Amended)   A distributed storage system comprising:

a network;

at least three intelligent storage nodes;

a first intelligent storage node, accessed via said network, for storing at least one file;

a second intelligent storage node, accessed via said network, for storing a duplicate of said file; and

a plurality of distributed object storage managers (DOSMs), one of said DOSMs for accessing, via said network, said file stored in said first intelligent storage node in response to a file request, for entering a failover condition to cease access to said file in said first intelligent storage node, for determining a location for said file in one of said intelligent storage nodes, for identifying said second storage node as said location for said file, and for accessing, via said network, said file stored in said second intelligent storage node in response to a subsequent file request.

REMARKS

Reconsideration of the application in view of the above amendments and the following remarks is respectfully requested.

Overview of the Claimed Invention:

A distributed storage system includes at least three intelligent storage nodes arranged in one or more storage centers. The intelligent storage nodes, which store the